

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2004 – 0530 MDT  
NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2**

**CURRENT SITUATION:**

Initial attack activity was light nationally, with 117 new fires reported. Two new large fires were reported, one each in the Southern California and Southern Areas. One large fire was contained in the Southern California Area. Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in Arizona, California, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

On September 12, a firefighter was fatally injured while working the Tuolumne fire on the Stanislaus National Forest near Groveland, CA. The firefighting community extends condolences to family and friends of the deceased.

**SOUTHERN AREA INCIDENTS:**

HURRICANE FRANCES, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Mann's Area Command Team is assigned to Tallahassee, FL. Kearney's Type 1 Incident Management Team is assigned to the Jacksonville Naval Air Station and is supporting receiving and distribution of supplies. Vail's Type 1 Incident Management Team is assigned to Orlando, FL (mass care center at Orlando Convention Center). Oltrogge's Type 1 Incident Management Team is assigned to Maxwell Airforce Base in Montgomery, AL. McComb's Type 1 Incident Management Team is staged in Atlanta, GA. Two Type 1 Incident Management Teams (Studebaker and Whitney) are being demobilized today.

UNIT 1 WF, McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge. This fire is 22 miles southwest of Sabine Pass, TX in wetlands and tall grass. No further information was received.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
UNIT 1 WF	TX	MCR	1,300	0	9/16	21	0	6	1	0	NR

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA LARGE FIRES:**

OLD HWY, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CDF), Merced-Mariposa Unit. A CDF Type 1 Incident Command Team (Henson) is assigned. This fire is on the southwest edge of Mariposa, CA in oak woodland and chaparral. Fire behavior was predominantly creeping and smoldering with intermittent runs and spotting. Reduction in acreage is due to more accurate mapping.

TUOLUMNE, Stanislaus National Forest. A Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) is assigned. This fire is 11 miles east of Groveland, CA in heavy brush and timber. Steep, rugged terrain and minimal access are major concerns. Torching within the fire perimeter was observed. Reduction in acreage is due to more accurate mapping.

BORDER, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CDF), Monte Vista Unit. This fire is six miles east of Potrero, CA along Highway 94 in chaparral. Long term drought conditions and difficult access to the fire area are major concerns. Rapid rates of spread with severe spotting were observed.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
OLD HWY	CA	MMU	1,413	60	9/15	868	13	106	8	0	NR
TUOLUMNE	CA	STF	590	30	9/17	1,081	28	17	7	0	60K
BORDER	CA	MVU	965	48	9/14	523	15	67	4	1	100K
CHINA	CA	SQF	314	100	---	41	1	0	1	0	50K

SQF = Sequoia National Forest

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA LARGE FIRES:

BLUFF, Lassen Volcanic National Park. A transfer of command from a Fire Use Management Team (Weldon) to a Fire Use Manager will occur today. This lightning-caused Wildland Fire Use (WFU) incident, is located ten miles northwest of Chester, CA in timber, and is being managed to accomplish resource objectives. Interior islands of unburned heavy fuels continue to smolder.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
BLUFF – WFU	CA	LNP	3,304	N/A	N/A	54	3	0	1	0	1.1M

### SOUTHWEST AREA LARGE FIRES:

MARBLE-JIM COMPLEX, Grand Canyon National Park. A Fire Use Management Team (Bird) is assigned. This lightning-caused Wildland Fire Use (WFU) incident, previously reported as the Marble Complex, is located eight miles northwest of the North Rim developed area in timber, and is being managed to accomplish resource objectives. No new information was reported. This will be the last report unless new information is received.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
MARBLE-JIM COMPLEX - WFU	AZ	GCP	1,370	N/A	N/A	94	3	0	0	0	2.5M

### ALASKA AREA LARGE FIRES:

TAYLOR HIGHWAY COMPLEX, Alaska Division of Forestry, Tok Area. This complex, comprised of the Billy Creek, Gardiner Creek, Chicken and Porcupine fires, is 35 miles northwest of Tok, AK in black spruce and tundra. Isolated drizzling rain and snow modified fire behavior on some fires within the complex. Creeping and smoldering fire activity with isolated torching was reported.

CAMP CREEK, Alaska Division of Forestry, Delta Area. This fire is 35 miles northeast of Delta Junction, AK in black spruce and white spruce. Fire behavior moderated due to higher relative humidity levels. Smoldering, creeping and backing fire activity was observed.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
TAYLOR HIGHWAY COMPLEX	AK	TAS	1,305,592	16	10/1	48	1	0	1	9	15.8M
CAMP CREEK	AK	DAS	175,815	65	9/30	55	2	1	1	3	6.9M

## OUTLOOK:

**Red Flag Warnings:** For late tonight through Wednesday morning for the Sacramento Valley and surrounding mountains. This is for gusty north to northeast winds and lowering relative humidity levels with poor overnight relative humidity recovery.

**Weather Discussion:** Gusty north winds are expected over Northern California as high pressure builds north of the state. Generally dry weather is expected over most of the West except for some showers over the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rockies. Hurricane Ivan will be tracking northward across the Gulf of Mexico.

Geographic Area Weather	High Temperatures	Minimum Relative Humidity	Wind
<b>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA</b> Sunny except night and morning fog or low clouds Southern California coastal basins.	70 to 80 coastal areas. 75 to 90 mountains. 85 to 95 valleys. 88 to 94 upper deserts. 100 to 107 lower deserts.	10 to 20% mountains and deserts and 25 to 40% coastal valleys.	Northwest to northeast 5 to 15 mph.
<b>NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA</b> Mostly sunny and a little warmer. Just patchy fog at the coast.	80s to mid 90s in inland valleys.	11 to 21% drier inland areas.	North-northwest to northeast 4 to 12 mph, except in the Red Flag area 10 to 20 mph, with gusts 25 to 30 mph in the northern and central Sacramento Valley.
<b>ALASKA</b> <b>Eastern Interior</b> Mostly cloudy with scattered showers	<b>Eastern Interior</b> 40s and low 50s	<b>Eastern Interior</b> Above 40%	<b>Eastern Interior</b> North to 10 mph.
<b>WESTERN GREAT BASIN AREA</b> Partly to mostly sunny.	North Valleys: 70 to 80. South Valleys: 80 to 98. Mountains: 60 to 70.	North valleys: 10 to 25%. North mountains: 20 to 30%. South valleys: 6 to 12%. South mountains: 10 to 15%.	North to northeast at 5 to 15 mph with localized gusts to 25 mph.
<b>ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA</b> Scattered showers and thunderstorms northern portions. Dry south.	Highs ranging from the upper 50s and 60s in the north to the 80s to lower 90s south.	Below 20% southern portions, with higher values north.	West winds 10 to 25 mph over western-southern Wyoming and western Colorado, with 20 to 30 mph southerly winds across the southeast plains.
<b>NORTHERN ROCKIES</b> Scattered rain showers with isolated thundershowers east of the divide. Snow showers above 7000 feet.	65 to 75.	45 to 55%.	Southwest 5 to 10 mph except southwest 20 to 30 mph northern east slopes in Montana.

<p><b>EASTERN GREAT BASIN</b>  <b>Idaho, Bridger-Teton:</b> Mostly cloudy mountains with scattered rain or snow showers. Isolated thunderstorms western Wyoming. Partly cloudy elsewhere.  <b>Northern Utah:</b> Partly cloudy. Isolated rain or snow showers at higher elevations.  <b>Southern Utah, Arizona Strip:</b> Mostly sunny.</p>	<p><b>Idaho, Bridger-Teton:</b> 43 to 57 mountains, 57 to 66 valleys.  <b>Northern Utah:</b> 50 to 65 mountains, 65 to 80 valleys.  <b>Southern Utah, Arizona Strip:</b> 65 to 85 mountains, 83 to 92 valleys, except 92 to 105 Lake Mead area.</p>	<p><b>Idaho, Bridger-Teton:</b> 40 to 60% mountains, 25 to 40% valleys, except 65 to 80% western Wyoming.  <b>Northern Utah:</b> 30 to 50% mountains, 15 to 30% valleys.  <b>Southern Utah, Arizona Strip:</b> 15 to 33% mountains, 8 to 18% valleys.</p>	<p><b>Idaho, Bridger-Teton:</b> Northwest to west 8 to 15 mph, gusts to 40 mph possible western Wyoming mountains.  <b>Northern Utah:</b> Northwest 15 to 25 mph.  <b>Southern Utah, Arizona Strip:</b> Upslope 4 to 8 mph early, then north to northwest 15 to 25 mph and gusty in the afternoon.</p>
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[http://www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/dsp\\_sixminutes.php](http://www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/dsp_sixminutes.php)

### COMMON DENOMINATORS OF FIRE BEHAVIOR ON TRAGEDY FIRES

Five common denominators that contribute to accidents/incidents have been identified through studies of tragedy fires. It is important for firefighters to readily recognize the following common denominators so that future tragedies can be prevented:

- Most incidents happen on smaller fires or on isolated portions of larger fires.
- Most fires are innocent in appearance before unexpected shifts in wind direction and/or speed results in flare-ups or extreme fire behavior. In some cases, tragedies occur in the mop-up stage.
- Flare-ups generally occur in deceptively light fuels, such as grass and light brush.
- Fires run uphill surprisingly fast in chimneys, saddles, gullies, and on steep slopes.
- Some suppression tools, such as helicopters or airtankers, can adversely affect fire behavior. The blasts of air from low-flying helicopters and airtankers have been known to cause flare-ups.

**FIRES AND ACRES YESTERDAY:**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES					0		0
Northwest	FIRES					6		6
	ACRES					1		1
Northern California	FIRES					16	2	18
	ACRES					43	1	44
Southern California	FIRES				1	16		17
	ACRES				0	43		43
Northern Rockies	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						0	0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		4			2	6	12
	ACRES		21			0	0	21
Western Great Basin	FIRES		1	1				2
	ACRES		0	0				0
Southwest	FIRES	1					3	4
	ACRES	1					8	9
Rocky Mountain	FIRES				1	1	2	4
	ACRES				0	0	2	2
Eastern Area	FIRES					14		14
	ACRES					88		88
Southern Area	FIRES			1		33	4	38
	ACRES			1,300		124	8	1,432
TOTAL	FIRES	1	5	2	2	89	18	117
	ACRES	1	21	1,300	0	299	19	1,640

**FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES	6	58	81	18	481	22	666
	ACRES	6,109	1,192,677	1,878,641	29,426	3,275,771	5	6,382,629
Northwest	FIRES	344	299	37	62	1,659	1,244	3,645
	ACRES	22,663	4,622	880	258	17,465	74,572	120,460
Northern California	FIRES	117	87	12	19	2,417	901	3,553
	ACRES	152	8,894	43	481	51,364	9,645	70,579
Southern California	FIRES	36	108	21	47	2,711	716	3,639
	ACRES	668	6,007	1,867	29	65,820	10,624	85,015
Northern Rockies	FIRES	947	71	19	13	776	846	2,672
	ACRES	5,490	1,470	1,062	4	18,138	11,077	37,241
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	61	788	2	45	530	700	2,126
	ACRES	532	40,561	1	61	7,731	47,256	96,142
Western Great Basin	FIRES	16	624	12	17	97	146	912
	ACRES	340	21,924	2,665	51	7,856	8,362	41,198
Southwest	FIRES	709	145	5	75	660	1,599	3,193
	ACRES	5,195	5,663	201	514	7,000	281,934	300,507
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	333	460	36	49	447	454	1,779
	ACRES	5,261	4,997	1,273	37	24,086	8,042	43,696
Eastern Area	FIRES	495		47	30	10,049	471	11,092
	ACRES	5,109		2,335	110	79,698	5,654	92,906
Southern Area	FIRES	132		63	43	24,934	587	25,759
	ACRES	15,822		15,112	3,467	321,151	73,428	428,980
TOTAL	FIRES	3,196	2,640	335	418	44,761	7,686	59,036
	ACRES	67,341	1,286,815	1,904,080	34,438	3,876,080	530,599	7,699,353

<b>Ten Year Average Fires</b>	<b>65,049</b>
<b>Ten Year Average Acres</b>	<b>3,605,709</b>

\*\*\* Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments. \*\*\*

**PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES YESTERDAY:**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES	3	1				7	11
	ACRES	700	705				54	1,459
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						5	5
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES				0		2	2
	ACRES				1,000		210	1,210
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIRES						3	3
	ACRES						148	148
TOTAL	FIRES	3	1	0	0	0	13	17
	ACRES	700	705	0	1,000	0	417	2,822

**PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES		1			5		6
	ACRES		33,000			22,901		55,901
Northwest	FIRES	38	87	58	1		262	446
	ACRES	7,626	14,155	4,772	30		58,329	84,912
Northern California	FIRES	14	39	97	18		183	351
	ACRES	251	731	14,164	4,080		22,617	41,843
Southern California	FIRES		4	20	10		76	110
	ACRES		27	1,686	718		6,213	8,644
Northern Rockies	FIRES	40	9	77	3	45	437	611
	ACRES	2,585	3,336	12,590	1,046	3,066	43,920	66,543
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	1	24	4	4	18	49	100
	ACRES	149	12,612	847	1,252	1,490	18,120	34,470
Western Great Basin	FIRES		9	5			5	19
	ACRES		1,763	541			971	3,275
Southwest	FIRES	14	15	7	12		335	383
	ACRES	3,869	4,846	12,769	10,026		84,693	116,203
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	42	42	163	18	12	118	395
	ACRES	5,117	12,851	23,592	13,664	3,947	46,129	105,300
Eastern Area	FIRES	27		371	23	1,084	201	1,706
	ACRES	14,804		43,533	4,443	73,952	34,629	171,361
Southern Area	FIRES	51		204	78	395	1,135	1,863
	ACRES	8,503		91,851	74,152	212,772	999,933	1,387,211
TOTAL	FIRES	227	230	1,006	167	1,559	2,801	5,990
	ACRES	42,904	83,321	206,345	109,411	318,128	1,315,554	2,075,663

\*\*\* Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments. \*\*\*

**WFU FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES				3			3
	ACRES				62,266			62,266
Northwest	FIRES				5		8	13
	ACRES				200		1,745	1,945
Northern California	FIRES				10		3	13
	ACRES				3,165		0	3,165
Southern California	FIRES				11		2	13
	ACRES				4,536		222	4,758
Northern Rockies	FIRES				15		63	78
	ACRES				0		2,410	2,410
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES				1	0	47	48
	ACRES				0	10	11,363	11,373
Western Great Basin	FIRES		13		2			15
	ACRES		493		0			493
Southwest	FIRES				9		25	34
	ACRES				1,705		13,003	14,708
Rocky Mountain	FIRES		28	3	2	0	6	39
	ACRES		6,996	295	0	2,271	613	10,175
Eastern Area	FIRES				3		1	4
	ACRES				1,436		1	1,437
Southern Area	FIRES				1			1
	ACRES				3,007			3,007
TOTAL	FIRES	0	41	3	62	0	155	261
	ACRES	0	7,489	295	76,315	2,281	29,357	115,737

\*\*\* Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments. \*\*\*

**CANADA FIRES AND HECTARES:**

PROVINCES	FIRES YESTERDAY	HECTARES YESTERDAY	FIRES YEAR-TO-DATE	HECTARES YEAR-TO-DATE
British Columbia			2,326	224,526
Yukon Territory			273	1,843,260
Alberta			1,536	234,420
Northwest Territory			286	347,292
Saskatchewan			320	238,215
Manitoba			222	4,895
Ontario			367	1,493
Quebec			256	3,013
Newfoundland			144	8,432
New Brunswick			238	291
Nova Scotia			248	246
Prince Edward Island			20	15
National Parks			88	197,904
Total			6,324	3,104,002

\*\*\*The next weekly update for CIFFC will be on 9/16/2004\*\*\*

**RESOURCES STATUS: COMMITTED RESOURCES**

AREA	CREWS FED	CREWS ST/OT	ENGS FED	ENGS ST/OT	HELI FED	HELI ST/OT	AIRT FED	AIRT ST/OT	OVRHD FED	OVRHD ST/OT
Alaska	1	2		1	1	1			8	29
Northwest	3	1	9		1				4	
Northern California	5	12	5	17	1	3			26	11
Southern California	63	49	68	159	16	9			135	196
Northern Rockies										
Eastern Great Basin			2		1					
Western Great Basin	4	1	2						4	
Southwest										
Rocky Mountain			4						3	
Eastern Area	2		5	8	5	3			54	11
Southern Area			6			1			2	2
Total	78	65	101	185	25	17	0	0	236	249

\*\*\* NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER \*\*\*